

**Laura Trapp, National Board Certified Librarian
Public Testimony
Education and Local Government Committee
September 15, 2014**

Hello Chairman Facey and Members of the Education and Local Government Interim Committee:

My name is Laura Trapp and I am a teacher librarian at Rossiter Elementary School here in Helena. Thank you for the opportunity to share some information about the work I do with students, teachers and families. I'd like to tell you about a few of the roles and attributes of Montana's teacher librarians.

Teacher librarians are strongly committed to lifelong learning:

- We are certified teachers. We earned our library endorsement by taking approximately 2 additional years of course work.
- Many of us have master's degrees.
- Several of us have earned National Board Certification.
- We are often the technology experts in our buildings and are continually attending classes, webinars, and workshops (outside of school hours) to keep up on the latest technologies and their effective uses in education.

Teacher librarians teach classes:

- At Rossiter I teach 460 students per week in scheduled classes in the library, 21 classes per week.
- We use Montana's Information Literacy and Library Media Standards as a guide: http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Standards/09IL_LMContentStandards.pdf
- We collaborate with classroom teachers to help with resources and delivery of curriculum in all academic areas.

Teacher librarians are library administrators:

- I manage a small building library budget: ordering, cataloging and processing most of the books and other materials purchased for my library collection.
- I host a book fair twice each year in order to raise money for the library and to help parents get quality books for their children.

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- I manage my school's online library catalog, which is part of the Helena School District's shared catalog, and we actively participate in a robust Interlibrary Loan program.

Teacher librarians know their school's academic curriculum:

- It is essential that we are familiar with all curricular areas so that we can purchase materials that will support teaching and learning at all grade levels in the school, and then connect teachers and students with these resources.

Teacher librarians know their students:

- It is important for us to know our students' interests and abilities in order that we can connect them with books and resources that will capture their interest, enhance their learning and give them enjoyment by making them think, laugh, and wonder about the world.

Teacher librarians help facilitate school wide programs that enhance learning and community building in their schools:

- School wide reading initiatives: Principal's Reading Challenge, Bikes for Books, TV Turnoff Week, Accelerated Reader Goal Setting
- Promoting and participating in the Lewis and Clark Library's annual Big Read program
- Sponsoring author visits: in person, through Skype and online webcasts
- Nationwide programs: Jumpstart's Read for the Record and Read Across America
- Summer Library Program: Our library is open once a week in the summer

Teacher librarians reach out to families:

- Educating them on important issues such as online safety
- Partnering with our Public Library – we are a Bookmobile stop twice each month
- Letting families know about online resources such as Homework Montana and subscription databases purchased by our school district like Tumblebooks and Worldbook Online
- Assisting parents in finding resources, books and technology to help them extend their child's learning at home.

I'm sure you are familiar with the many research studies that have proven the effectiveness of qualified teacher librarians and their positive impact on student learning. If you would like more information on those studies you can find some here:

http://www.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/s/slw3_2008.pdf

If you haven't been in a school library for awhile, I invite you to visit us at Rossiter School! I guarantee you will be amazed at our students, staff and resources. Spending time in an elementary school is always a joyful experience! I am including my contact information so you can take me up on this offer!

I am so proud to be a teacher librarian.

I believe the Helena School District teacher librarians said it well when crafting their vision statement:

The vision of the School Library Media Program is that all students and staff experience the power and variety of collective resources to become critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users and creators of ideas and information in their global learning community.

Thank you for your time.

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